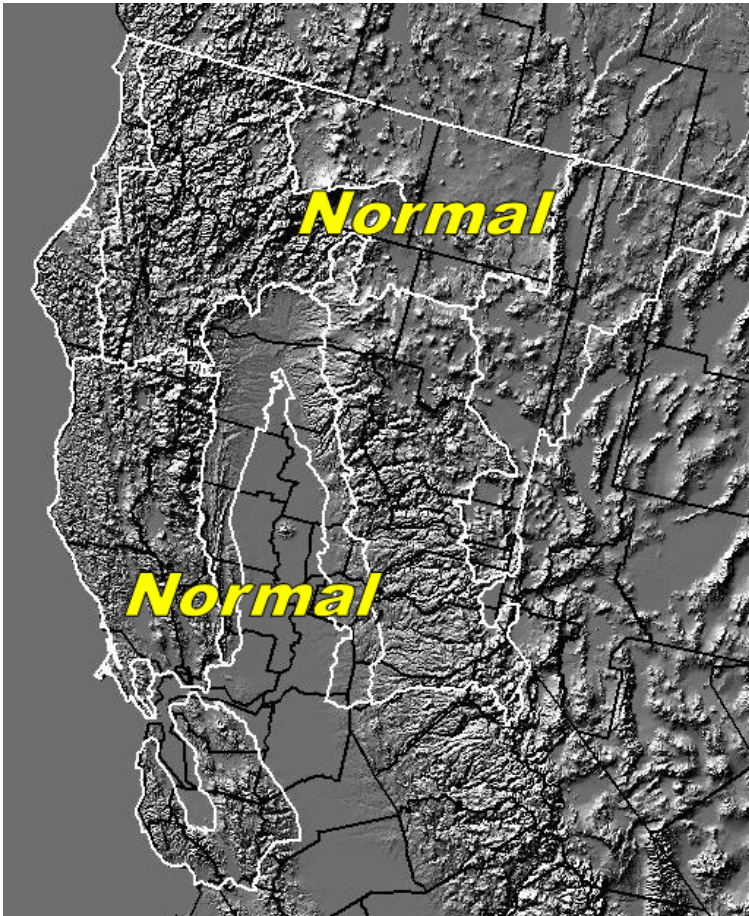


MONTHLY OUTLOOK

For Northern California and Hawaii

Issued: November 1st, 2012

Valid for: November 2012



Summary

- Fuels have moderated to near **Normal** to **Above Normal** Moisture Levels.
- **Normal Temperatures** (-1 to +2 deg) **Normal Precipitation** (65% to 115%) expected for November.
- **Normal (off-season) Large Fire Potential** expected for all areas with no critical fire conditions expected.

Weather Discussion

REVIEW OF OCTOBER 2012 WEATHER:

Near record warmth prevailed during the first few days of the month as the Four Corners High Pressure System again shifted westwards towards CA and dominated our weather with very warm, dry conditions, except for the immediate coast. Gradual cooling ensued during the 2nd week in advance of a large, cool early season storm by the 3rd week. This system produced 2-4 days of cloudy, cool conditions along with periods of moderate to locally heavy precipitation, including significant snowfall across higher elevations. Warmer, drier conditions returned for the last week of the month. Temperatures were generally near normal except 3-5 degrees warmer than normal across much of NE CA (Fig 1). Despite the large storm late in the month, most of the region was below normal monthly precipitation levels (Fig 2).

Fuel/Fire Potential Discussion

Dead fuels across Northern California have returned to near normal late autumn levels across all areas, as seen on the entire North Zone avg ERC chart (Fig A). Given time of year it is unlikely to see a return to critically dry fuel conditions as prolonged warmth and drying is not expected and winter storms become more frequent. Longer term drought conditions still persist across parts of NE CA (Fig B) and will need to be monitored throughout the winter/spring months and into the 2013 fire season.

Weather Discussion (continued)

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
10/1/2012 – 10/29/2012

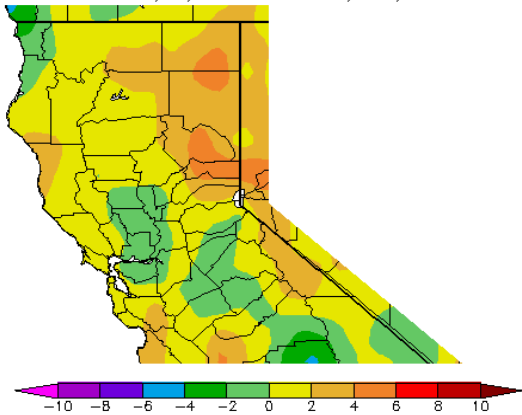


Fig 1: October Temp Departure from Normal (Deg F°)

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2012 – 10/29/2012

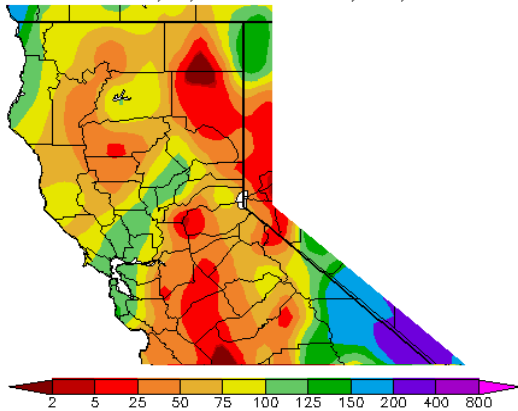


Fig 2: October Precipitation Percent of Average (%)

Fuel/Fire Potential (continued)

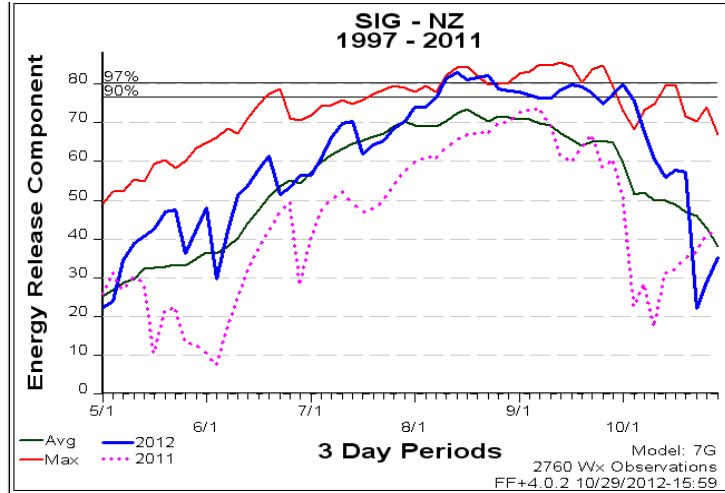


Figure A: ERC All Nrn CA PSA's (2012, Record, Average)

U.S. Drought Monitor

California

October 23, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Intensity:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Drought Moderate
- D2 - Drought Severe
- D3 - Drought Extreme
- D4 - Drought Exceptional

Figure B: US Drought Monitor Nrn CA as of Oct 23rd

FORECAST DISCUSSION FOR NOVEMBER 2012:

A mid range wetting rain event right at the start of the month (beginning Oct 31st) will give way to high pressure and warmer, drier conditions for the next 6-8 days of November. Afterwards the weather pattern looks more unsettled with long range computer models showing the Northern Pacific storm track becoming more active and gradually pushing southward across Nrn CA. These storms could bring more widespread rain and mountain snow, adding to the snowcover above about 5000 ft. Overall **NORMAL LARGE FIRE POTENTIAL** for November is expected.

Prescribed Fires/Misc Fuel&Fire Data

PREScribed FIRE IMPLICATIONS:

Most favorable conditions for underburns will be in the 1st week, but air quality considerations may work counter to widespread burn approval. Thereafter, periods of high pressure influence may be too short-lived to allow for sustained drying across much of NOPS. Also, wet systems by mid month look cool, with mostly snow above 5000 feet. Bottom line is that November 2012 may favor pile burning much more so than large-scale underburning, especially the latter two-thirds of November.

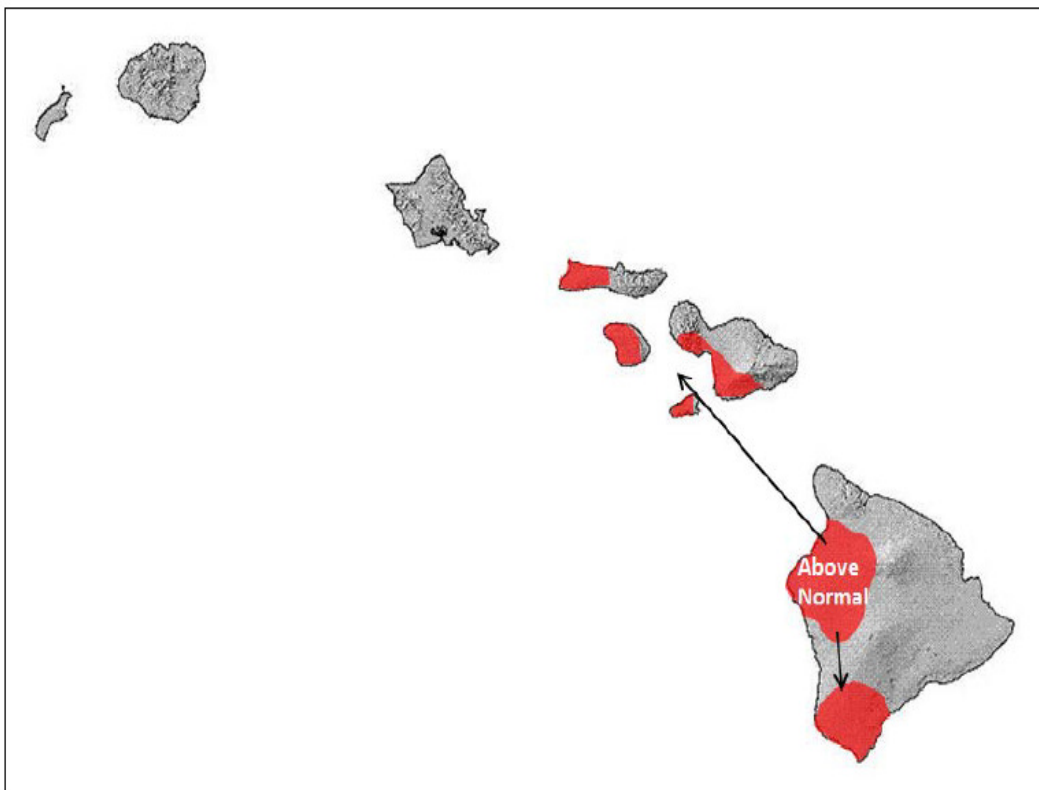
FUELS:

Live Woody Fuel Moisture: N/A
100-Hour Dead Fuel Moisture: 11% to 24%
1000-Hour Dead Fuel Moisture: 10% to 23%

Fire Occurrence /Acres Burned YTD:

Fires 3551
Acres 771,500

Hawaii Monthly Outlook November 2012



November Discussion:

Dry, warm conditions are expected to continue the drought conditions across the lower islands, where **Above Normal Fire Potential** is expected to continue



This Product was developed by the Predictive Services group, located at the North Zone Coordination Center in Redding, California

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